

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action of December 10, 2004, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 1-20 were previously pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicant is canceling claims 2 and 12 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 3, 11, 13, 19, and 20 have been amended. As a result, claims 1, 3-11, and 13-20 are pending for examination, with claims 1, 11, and 19 being independent. Applicant notes that the amendments to claims 1, 11, and 19 merely incorporate limitations of previously pending dependent claims. In addition, claims 3 and 13 are amended merely to alter their dependencies so that they no longer depend from the claims canceled herein. Thus, the amendments made herein raise no new issues that would require further search and/or consideration.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office Action rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112 for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if amended to overcome these rejections. Accordingly, claims 1, 11 and 19 have been amended to address the issues raised in the Office Action. Thus, the application should now be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112 and issuance of a notice of allowance are respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
Anthony J. Gounalis, Applicant

By: *Randy J. Pritzker*
Randy J. Pritzker, Reg. No. 35,986
Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks, P.C.
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2206
Telephone: (617) 646-8000

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